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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherukuri, US Patent Number 6,006,307, in view of Rusu, et. al., US Patent Number 6,137,807. Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherukuri in view of Rusu, et. al., and in further view of Kawaguchi, US Published Patent Application 2001/0030900 A1. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherukuri in view of Rusu, et. al., and in further view of Kawaguchi, US Published Patent Application 2003/0115403 A1. Claim 2 stands as allowable but objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the elements of allowable claim 2, thereby placing claim 1 and claims 3-5, depending from claim 1, in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 6 has been rewritten to include the elements of allowable claim 2, thereby placing claim 6 and claims 7-13, depending from claim 6, in condition for allowance.

New claim 14 has been added to address the Examiner's statement with regard to features lacking in claim 1. See Final Office Action, Paper 8, page 9, lines 4-11. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has responded to applicants' argument, presented with regard to rejection of claim 1, that certain features recited in the argument and admitted to be lacking in Cherukuri, are present in the specification, but are not recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 14 is patterned after claim 1 to incorporate these certain features that the Examiner has noted were not included in claim 1. Because the Examiner has already considered the certain features added to claim 14, no new matter is being introduced that requires any additional searching. Therefore, claim 14 is believed to be in condition for allowance.


New claims 15 - 21, depending directly or indirectly from allowable claim 14, have been added. No additional claim fees are required for these new

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claims. Claims 15 - 21 are based on claims 7, 2, 8, 5, 13, 3, and 4, respectively, so that no new matter is included in claims 15 - 21. Accordingly, claims 15 - 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For all the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all the claims presently pending in the application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Allowance of claims 1 and 3 - 21 is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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